

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schroeder et al. (U.S. 2002/0099735). Schroeder has a filing date of January 19, 2001 and does not claim priority to any other application.

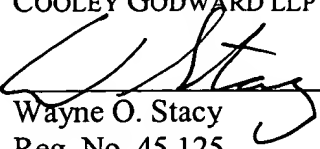
An affidavit under 37 CFR 1.131 is attached. This affidavit demonstrates that the invention in the present application was reduced to practice prior to January 19, 2001, which is the effective date of Schroeder. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Schroeder is no longer a proper reference and any rejections based on Schroeder should be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, solicit an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any question or comments arise.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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